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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 006167

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETTC](#) [TU](#) [IR](#)

SUBJECT: IRAN REQUEST FOR BOEING PARTICIPATION IN KISH AIR SHOW

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

1. (SBU) Following, for the record, are the texts of three documents given to DCM by the Swiss defense attache in Ankara, who is also accredited to Tehran. The documents relate an Iranian desire to encourage the participation of the Boeing Company in the Kish Air Show, which will be held November 24-27.

2. (SBU) DOCUMENT 1: Memcon of Swiss Defense Attache's meeting with Director of Kish Air Show.

Aide memoire

Subject: Meeting of the Swiss Defense Attache with the Director of the Iran Air Show Kish

Via the Swiss Embassy in Teheran the director of the above mentioned Air Show, Mr. Bijan BONAKDAR, requested to meet the writer of this aide memoire, that is the Swiss Defense Attache in Turkey and Iran with seat in Ankara, while he was on a visit in Teheran (27.09.-07.10.2004).

This requested meeting took place on the 3rd of October 04 in the office of the a.m. director and lasted approximately 1 1/2 hour.

After a short introduction Mr. BONAKDAR expressed his sorrow, that the Swiss Pilatuswerke would not participate in the Air Show. Iran would have been very much interested to see the PC-12 as well as the PC-21.

For the control of the border to Afghanistan as well as for the control of the drug routes, the PC-12 could be of great use. From their point of view the PC-12 would be an ideal and above all a low priced instrument for the control of long borders and large areas.

After this introduction, which was directly related to the Swiss visitor, the director raised the issue of the non-participation of Boeing and in relation with this also the non-participation of Airbus.

In the course of the conversation it became obvious that Mr. BONAKDAR wanted the Swiss visitor to be the submitter of following message to a high level US representative:

Iran air is in big material trouble and needs urgently new planes (more than 100 in total!). According to Mr. BONAKDAR the Iranian Minister of Transport resigned from his position at the beginning of October especially due to the extreme difficult material situation of Iran Air. The financial volume of this renewal would amount to 20 billion USD (!) for the next 10 years.

According to the information given by the director, the necessary money is available.

If, contrary to the first cancellation, Boeing would be still allowed to participate on the Air Show in Kish, then Iran-Air would decide to replace their aircraft with Boeing-planes(!).

The Swiss visitor did clearly further query, if Mr. BONAKDAR would vouch for the following proposal which he wanted to be submitted via the Swiss Defense Attache. The proposal is: Participation of Boeing in the Iran Air Show 04 and in contrary replacement of more than hundred (!) airplanes of Iran Air through products of the company Boeing. Mr. BONAKDAR affirmed expressly and precisely that the few in service Airbus planes shall be replaced again through Boeing in order to allow continuity in the maintenance of the aircraft fleet.

Furthermore the fact emanated from the conversation, that Iran wants the whole matter to be kept "outside the politics", since this is a very specific and a very urgent matter.

The signatory of this letter promised on Wednesday, 6th of October 2004, that on the occasion of a meeting he will inform the Swiss Ambassador in Teheran, Mr. Ph.

Welti (happened already in the meantime), and that he will also inform the Swiss Ambassador in Ankara, Mr. W. Gyger, after his return to Turkey, and otherwise, that he will maintain silence. The signatory promised furthermore to inform personally after his return to Ankara if possible the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the United States of America in Ankara

In a personal evaluation of the matter, the signatory told his Iranian conversational partner, that because of the general political situation he does not rate the possibility of success to more than 3%. The very urbane Mr. BONAKDAR (who apparently seems to have very good contacts to Mr. Leo J. PETKA from BOEING, Project Manager, Strategy and Development and Analysis), who in no way comes across as ideological agreed but added: nevertheless we will try because from economic point of view, it is not little that the Americans will receive. Who knows, may be for the first time both parties would manage to take of their ideological glasses for something good and urgent.

13. DOCUMENT 2: Text of Letter from Director of Kish Air Show to "Aerospace Industry Subcommittee in the Congress of the United States."

To : Esteemed Member of Aerospace Industry Subcommittee in the Congress of the United States of America
From: Secretariat of Iran Kish Airshow 2004

Dear Sir / Madam:

The first International Iran Kish Airshow held on OCT 2002 marked a new beginning in our effort to reach out and join the rest of the aerospace industry in the world. The second biannual airshow is due on Nov. 24th this year and will run until Nov 27th . The venue is the beautiful island of Kish in the Persian Gulf. Kish Island is a free Trade Zone and as such removes most of the barriers associated with Visa and other challenges facing visitors who come to Iran.

This event present an ideal opportunity in part for start of a reconciliation process aimed at remedying the urgent commercial aviation requirements of Iran, most of which are American origin.

The presence of Boeing Aircraft company and demonstration of its latest technology would go a long way in persuading the commercial airline operation in Iran, to buy American, specially as we are moving towards a separation of sanction that are putting innocent peoples lives at high risk due to lack of spare parts and those that are harmless in this sense.

We are aware of similar efforts being made by the commercial aviation industry lobby in U.S.A and we appreciate a great deal.

We would like you to press on for this change of policy and look forward to a positive response to our request for presence of the American Aviation Industry at Iran Kish Airshow 2004 . It is an ideal opportunity to mend fences and take another step in reconciliation along the commercial route, and more importantly safeguarding human life.

We would like to thank you in advance for your efforts in this matter and look forward to a positive response.

Yours truly,

Bijan Bonakdar
Secretariat of Iran Kish Airshow 2004

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cc : Esteemed colleagues in Boeing corporation U.S. A
cc : U.S . Federal Aviation Administration

14. DOCUMENT 4: letter from Director of Kish Air Show to UN Secretary General Annan.

Kind attention
His Excellency Mr; Kofi Annan' Secretary General of the United Nations

Your Excellency,

We are pleased to inform you that the second Iran Kish Airshow is going to be held from 24 to 27 of Nov. 2004 in Kish island in the Persian Gulf.

As you are completely aware of current situation in Iranian Aviation System, there is a great demand to upgrade and modernize the existing Airfleet with new aircrafts which they may endanger the human life, in Iran.

The Second Iran Kish Airshow presents an ideal opportunity in part for start of a reconciliation process aimed at remedying the urgent commercial aviation

requirements of Iran, most of which are American origin.

The presence of Boeing and Airbus companies and demonstration of their latest technology, would go a long way in persuading the commercial airline operation in Iran, to buy new aircrafts both from Boeing and Airbus specially as we are moving towards a separation of sanction that are putting innocent people's lives at high risk due to lack of spare parts.

We are aware of similar efforts being made by the commercial aviation industry lobby in U.S.A. and we appreciate a great deal.

We would like you to press on for this change of policy and look forward to a positive response to our request for presence of Boeing and Airbus, at Iran Kish Airshow 2004.

It is an ideal opportunity to mend fences and take the commercial route, and more importantly safeguarding human life.

We would like to thank you very much in advance for your efforts in this matter and look forward to positive response.

Yours truly,

Bijan Bonakdar
Secretariat of Iran Kish Air Show 2004

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